WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Distribution
Marketing Reports Division
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FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS
Week ending September 15, 1944

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Apples: The 1944 commercial apple crop of the United States is estimated at 38 percent above the 1943 crop. Present total shipments, indicative of present harvest conditions, are approximately 63 percent of the total for last year. Daily carlot shipments for the past week have averaged 95 cars, about 26 cars above the daily average for the previous week.

Gravensteins were quoted at prices ranging from 6 cents per pound to 8 cents while Winter Bananas on the wholesale markets averaged 8 cents. The first Jonathans on the Seattle market, Sept. 15, brought $3.65 per box loose pack.

Cranberries: The first cranberries of the season, on the Portland market, were received on the 15th from the Illwaco district in Washington and sold at $8.50 per box of 25 pounds.

Grapes: 4,588 cars of grapes have moved interstate this season. 95 percent of this amount has originated in California. This volume, however, is only 80 percent of that for the same period last year.

Varieties most common on the wholesale markets of the west are Thompson Seedless, White Malaga, Ribier and Concord. Muscats and Tokays are also appearing in larger volume and are selling at 10 to 11 cents per pound on the southern markets. In the Northwest the other varieties are quoted at 9 to 10 cents per pound, packed in lugs of 28 pounds.

Peaches: Rail movement of peaches, this season to date, totals 25,201 cars. This is a 105 percent increase above the movement for last year for the same period. The peak of the daily shipments existed during the first week of September, and the peak of the carlot movement to processors was during the second and third week in August.

In the west, California clingstone and Pacific Northwest freestone peaches were quoted at prices ranging from 4 cents to 6.5 cents per pound.

Pears: Bartlett pears on the Pacific Northwest markets closed the week at 6 to 9 cents per pound, for packed and wrapped stock. In the south, Lake County Bartletts were quoted at 9 to 10 cents per pound.

Potatoes: Potatoes are moving out of Idaho in light supply and are holding at ceiling prices on all the western markets. On the Portland wholesale market, Klamath russets, in small lots, could be found at $3.62 per cwt. In San Francisco and Los Angeles they brought $3.50 to $3.60, and Long Whites brought $3.60 to $3.65 per cwt.

Tomatoes: Tomato receipts, because of unfavorable weather conditions a week ago, were slightly lighter toward the end of the week and the market was stronger. Top prices received were from 8 to 10 cents per pound for packed stock.

Corn: On the Portland market green corn supplies were insufficient on Friday to fill booked orders, while on the Seattle market supplies were heavy and prices on good stock were as low as $1.50 per crate of 6 dozen.

DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter: Supplies of butter, as the week advanced, became increasingly smaller and dealers in all markets found it increasingly difficult to supply orders. Both retailers and wholesalers in many instances have resorted to limited sales. Records indicate production to be close to a 20 year low, with the seasonal low point still ahead.

Eggs: Smaller receipts and increased demand for top quality eggs have placed the egg market in a much stronger position than at the beginning of the previous week. Receipts of eggs on the Central Western Primary markets show a decrease of almost 9 percent from the previous week but still about 4.5 percent above the corresponding week a year ago. The increase in demand for top quality eggs has strengthened demand for the lower grade eggs.

Prices on Large Grade "A" eggs for Friday on the four western wholesale markets were; San Francisco 48½ to 49½ cents, Los Angeles 53 to 54 cents, Portland 46 to 47 cents, Seattle 46 cents.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Cattle: Receipts of cattle on the Twelve Markets increased over 7 percent this last week above those for the week previous to a total of 279,800 head and 4 percent above the receipts for the same week a year ago.

Trading in cattle was most active, on the western markets, on range fat cows and heifers. Top prices for cows ranged from $10.50 to $12.00 and good heifers brought up to $13.00 during the week.

Indications were that retail stores had better supplies of fresh meat and that there was an increase in cow beef while there was a slight decrease in steer beef.

Veal supplies increased during the week and calf sales were mostly $13 to $13.75.

Hogs: The western markets reflected a generally lighter supply of hogs toward the end of the week and prices moved up 25 cents or more to or very near ceiling. Top price on 180 to 240 lb. barrows and gilts was $15.75.

Sheep: Lamb cuts were somewhat heavier in supply but prices were up to ceiling and lambs toward the end of the week were up from 50 cents to $1.00. Top prices paid for good wooled lambs were $13.50 to $14.50.

GRAIN PRODUCTS

Wheat: The indicated total 1944 wheat crop for the United States is 33,462,060 tons, approximately 47 percent larger than the 1933-42 average and 33 percent larger than the 1943 crop. Heavy supplies already harvested, and prospects for a near record crop, have weighed heavily on the wheat market and demand was slow from buyers. In the Northwest, growers were reported as not offering wheat at the present bids and were placing considerable amounts under government loans.

Bid prices at Portland on Friday were $1.43 per bushel for Soft White and Hard Red Winter wheat.

Beans: Details of the purchase and loan program under the price support set up for 1944 dry edible beans was announced by the WFA on September 11th. Information relative to the program should be obtained from the County Agricultural Committees, which will have the necessary loan forms.